



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Chiba, T., et al.  
Appl. No.: 09/576,681  
Filed: May 23, 2000  
Title: SHAPE OF MICRODOT MARK FORMED BY LASER BEAM AND  
MICRODOT MARKING METHOD  
Art Unit: 1725  
Examiner: Lynne Renee Edmondson  
Docket No.: 112780-004

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 14, 2002. Please amend the patent application as set forth below. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 2, and 10 as follows.

1. (Twice Amended) A microdot mark shape which is formed by a laser beam, on a surface of an article to be marked by using a laser as a light source, wherein  
the microdot mark shape is made by one dot mark formed on each laser irradiated point,  
the mark has a protrusion which protrudes in the center portion upward from the surface of the article to be marked, and  
the length of each dot mark along the surface of the article to be marked is 1.0 to 15.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .
2. (Once Amended) A microdot mark shape according to claim 1, wherein said surface of said article to be marked is a surface of a wafer.